

Latham House
On road to Thetford Hill, in
Town of Thetford
North Thetford Vicinity
Orange County
Vermont

HABS No. VT-56

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction
143 South Third Street
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

LATHAM HOUSE

Location: On road to Thetford Hill, in Town of Thetford, North Thetford Vicinity, Orange County, Vermont.

Present Owner: Charles Latham, Jr., North Thetford, Vermont.

Present Occupant: The owner, Charles Latham, Jr.

Present Use: Summer residence.

Brief Statement of Significance: Rather large, but otherwise typical, early Vermont farmhouse.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: See Part I, B, Supplemental Material.
2. Date of erection: Before 1802, probably in the 1770's. See Part I, B.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: A small entrance porch has been added at some unknown date before 1840 (See 4.a. below), but the original front door with pilasters and classical entablature is intact, though partly covered by the added porch. The ell is a later addition to the house and was probably done when Arthur Latham bought the house in 1802 to accommodate his seventeen children and his store.
4. Important old views and references:
 - a. There are four photographs of the house taken before 1868 and a drawing c. 1840 in the possession of Charles Latham and kept in the house. These old views indicate that the house has not been apparently altered since the time of the photographs and drawing.
 - b. Other information about the house is from an interview with the owner, Mr. Charles Latham, North Thetford, Vt.

B. Supplemental Material: The following information on the chain of title and the observation on the date of erection is a copy of a communication from the owner of the property, Mr. Charles Latham, Jr.

"(Information derived from Mrs. Wm. Slade, Thetford Hill)

V.T.
9-THEM

"House thought to have been built by Abner Chamberlin, son of William Chamberlin, one of original 1761 grantees, in 1770's.

"Passed to William Cushman.

"Sold by Cushman to Arthur Latham 1802 (four pieces, 175 acres, for \$5,000). This high price (compared with \$770 paid for adjoining Sweetland farm of 50 acres with house, barn and shed in 1809) indicates land had valuable buildings on it--but deed doesn't mention any.

"Arthur Latham

by Warranty deed, January 9, 1826, book 11, p. 443, to
William Harris Latham
to

Arthur Latham, S. Janette Latham, Thomas A. Kelley, Alice Kelley Cole, Thomas M. Kelley, James K. S. Latham, Julia A. Murfey, Gardner B. Murfey, Sarah A. Stockwell, William H. Latham, Edward P. Latham

by Quit Claim deed, November 9, 1874, book 22, pp. 130-136, to
Azuba F. Barney

by Will probated March 11, 1876, Book 22, pp. 169, 170, to
Lucy Latham Barney, Walter S. Gurnee, Belle Barney Gurnee, Helen H. Barney, Arthur L. Barney

by Warranty deed, November 25, 1876, book 22, pp. 169-170, to
John C. O'Connor, Belle Barney Gurnee, Arthur L. Barney

by Indenture deed, May 19, 1918, book 29, p. 167 and by Quit Claim deed, May 19, 1918, book 29, p. 168, to

Lucy L. B. Mott

by Decree of Distribution, January 9, 1942, book 40, to
Mary Latham Baker

by Quit Claim deed, August 18, 1954, book 40, p. 26, to
Charles Latham, Jr."

Prepared by Osmund R. Overby and Henry C.
Edwards, Architects
National Park Service
September 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: Rather large, but otherwise typical, early Vermont farmhouse. With the exception of the porch noted above (Part I, A.3.) the house has not been altered or remodelled and preserves the unaffected character of one and one-half centuries of continuous use.

2. Condition of Fabric: The house is in sound condition and well maintained. VT
9. THEATRE
1.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall size: Main rectangular unit, five bay, frame, two and one-half stories plus cellar. Ell to the rear, one and one-half stories.
2. Foundations: Large blocks of cut granite reinforced with concrete abutments.
3. Wall construction: Timber frame, horizontal board sheathing, clapboard siding.
4. Porches: Entrance porch a later addition, (see Part I, A.3., this photo-data book).
5. Chimneys: Two brick chimneys--one large, center chimney in main part of house; one smaller chimney in rear ell. Center chimney supported on unusually large barrel vaulted foundation in cellar.
6. Openings
 - a. Doorways and doors: Two six panel, single leaf, entrance doors on the west or front side and on the south side. South side door with transom light set in unrelieved frame. West side or front doorway with pilasters and entablature largely covered by later porch (see Part I, A. 3. this report).
 - b. Windows and shutters: 12/12 light double hung windows. Fixed slat shutters.
7. Roof
 - a. Shape, covering: Gable roofs, asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice, eaves: Simple, boxed eaves.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plans: Central chimney type plan with front, center, entrance hall, two flanking rooms, kitchen in the rear and store rooms in the ell. Bedrooms on second floor in similar arrangement.
2. Stairways: Front, U-shaped stairway in entrance hall. Back stairway. Exterior cellar stairway.
3. Flooring: Wide Pine board flooring.

4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster or wood paneling. Fireplace walls in three rooms paneled floor to ceiling.
5. Doors: Mostly original, six paneled doors.
6. Trim: Moulded wood trim.
7. Hardware: Original hardware largely replaced.
8. Lighting: Electric.
9. Heating: Five fireplaces plus stoves. Original kitchen fireplace with oven survives.

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D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: House faces west, on a flat, wooded lot, farm setting.
2. Enclosures: Wood fences.
3. Outbuildings: Horse and wood sheds attached to ell. Barn across road a few hundred feet from the house.
4. Walks, driveways: Gravel driveways. Some flagstone walks.
5. Landscaping, gardens: No formal landscaping; overgrown garden, large Maple trees.

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